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ABSTRACT

Serials collections are a costly but essential part of a library's periodicals holdings. Jacksonville State University Library's (JSUL) budgetary problems have forced librarians to examine their serials closely in terms of cost factors, indexing, expected usage, and curriculum and research support. The purpose of this project is to assess JSUL's periodical subscriptions for the period September 1, 1987 to August 31, 1988, in order to determine which titles merit renewal. JSUL conducted a 2-year use study as one indicator for a journal's usefulness to the collections. The evaluation process included only current, paid, non-essential JSUL periodical subscriptions--newspaper subscriptions were excluded. However, the results of the use studies are not to be the sole criteria for deselection. The serials will be deselected according to the following criteria: (1) whether the journal is indexed by services available in the library; (2) whether the title is in the English language (except on rare occasions); (3) the amount of curriculum support and the appropriateness of subject matter; (4) accuracy of content; (5) specific need; (6) appropriateness of cost relative to need; and (7) usage. Titles which exhibit extraordinary price increases will be subject to re-evaluation on a continuing basis. Certain essential titles will be automatically renewed (without use study analysis) if they are identified by subject specialists as an essential serials title. Tables of periodicals listings and memos and materials used in the JSUL are included, as well as lists of 52 references. (MAB)

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An Assessment of Jacksonville State University Library's Periodical Subscriptions

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Running head: Subscription Assessment

Building a serials collection for an academic library which meets the needs of its users is a difficult task. Each title that is selected must be carefully evaluated in areas of cost factors, indexing, expected usage, curriculum and research support, and accreditation requirements before it is placed on subscription, and re-evaluated on a regular basis to determine if it should be renewed. "The goal must be to provide a serials collection that supports the teaching and research needs of the academic institution - easy to say but much more difficult to effect when faced with decisions to be made about individual titles." (Ezzell, 1985)

There are many underlying and on-going cost factors related to subscription renewals other than the yearly subscription price. Some of these factors are: (a) a commitment to renew with an expected price increase, (b) handling fee charged by the subscription agent, (c) cataloging and processing time of library staff, (d) binding of paper issues or replacement in microform for permanent housing in the collection.

The purpose of this project is to assess Jacksonville State University (JSU) Library's periodical subscriptions for the period September 1, 1987 - August 31, 1988, in order to determine which titles merit renewal.

Jacksonville State University has a student enrollment of approximately 6,000 students. It is a four year teaching

institution with the Ed.S being the highest degree offered. The library houses a collection of 450,000 volumes, 1,400 periodical subscriptions, and has an operating budget of $1,385,801.00 (1986-87).

The 1986-87 fiscal year for JSU was one of severe budget cuts brought on by proration. The funds allocated for library materials purchases were cut by 38%. Because periodical acquisitions demand an on-going commitment of funds, a severe funding cut-back resulting in a high number of subscription cancellations would be disastrous for a library's periodicals holdings. Therefore when budget cuts are necessary, a larger percentage of the library's materials funds goes to the serials department, greatly depleting monies available for the purchase of monographs. Segal (1986) cites the following example of the University of Illinois: in 1977, the acquisitions department allocated 70% of its total budget for materials purchases to serials. When situations such as this occur, the serials librarian must be able to justify every dollar spent by that department.

The 1987-88 fiscal year for the JSU Library's serials department has been characterized by level funding. There has been no supplemental budget increase, and none is expected.

In addition to budgetary problems, the serials librarian must also contend with problems of subscription price increases. Periodicals are notorious for their

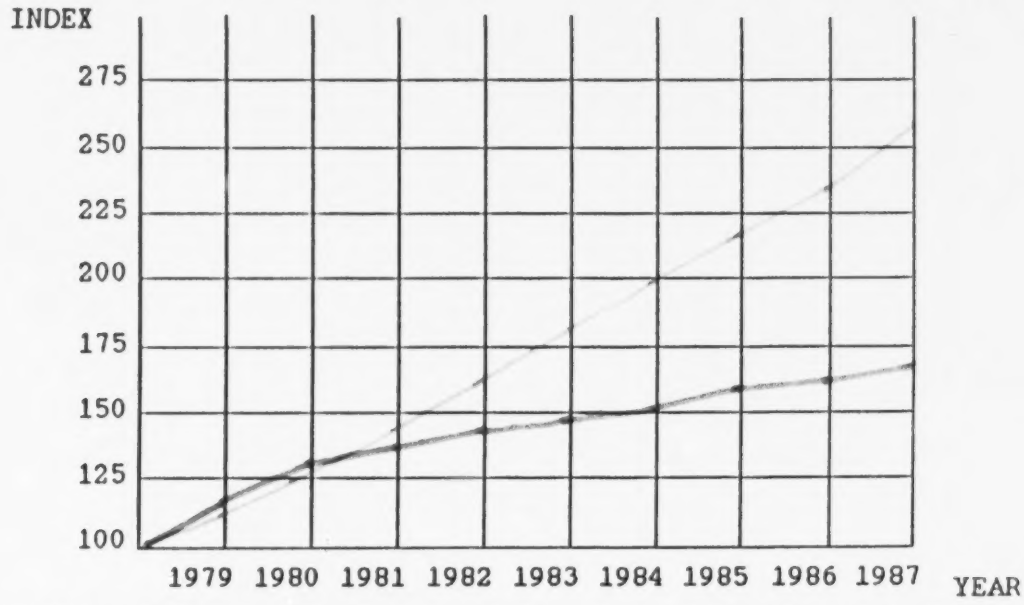
escalating prices. In the last 10 years, they have been characterized by extremely high inflation rates. According to Knapp and Lenzini (1987), U.S. periodical prices (excluding Soviet translations) have increased 258.9% since 1978. The consumer price index (inflation rate) for the same period was 170% (see Figure 1).

The average subscription price for a U.S. periodical in 1987 was $71.41. (Knapp & Lenzini, 1987) According to figures obtained from Ebsco Subscription Services, the average subscription price for JSU for 1987 was $51.06. Over a five year period our subscription expenditures have shown a 31.7% increase with the number of subscriptions remaining relatively unchanged.

The fiscal limitations placed on subscription purchases demand that the periodicals collection be evaluated on a regular basis to assure support for curriculum and research. A complete evaluation of current subscriptions would help to determine which titles could be canceled. This in turn would free funds that could then be used to satisfy the inflation costs of essential titles or to add new titles in areas where holdings are weak in support of curriculum.

Segal (1986), in discussing the relationship of terminology and attitudes in choosing which titles to cancel, states that "deselection implies undoing a past action, one of selecting... On the other hand, weeding implies ridding an area of the undesirable" Therefore deselection is the more appropriate term to apply in a

Figure 1. Comparison of increase in U. S. periodical average price and consumer price index: 1978-87. Index of 100.0 equivalent to average prices / CPI for 1978.



● U.S. periodicals excluding Soviet translations. Source: Library Journal, April 15, 1987.
● Consumer price index. Source: Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

situation of forced cutbacks because "in choosing to discontinue journals, [librarians] may feel regret and anxiety rather than victory over a nuisance."

Philosophical arguments debating the usefulness of use studies as a measure of journal worth can be found in abundance in the literature. Segal (1986) asks us to think about how librarians effect the outcome of use studies. If journals are not used, "is there a concurrent responsibility to increasing use in the library ? If a journal were to be discontinued because it is not used, perhaps libraries have to consider means and ways to increase use."

Despite the fallacies and inadequacies associated with the use study, it has been "an essential and objective way of gathering user information...[and has] been the backbone of journal cancellation projects since the early seventies." (Neame, 1986)

This use study was originally planned for one year. Because of problems encountered in the first year and because, according to Alldredge (1983), "the advantages of such a long duration study are manifested in the confidence a librarian can have in discussing non-use of the periodical collection with the faculty", it was decided to continue for it for two years.

Neame (1986), Segal (1986), and Buzzard & Whaley (1986), all emphasize the importance of faculty involvement in the deselection process. Caution must be taken to consider evaluative criteria other than a use study since

faculty may not consider use of a journal as any indication of its usefulness to the collection. Price, indexing, curriculum and research support are all equally important in the final decision for deselection.

Definition of Key Terms

1. Essential title - a periodical title, chosen by a subject specialist librarian, which will not be a part of the study. It is the opinion of the librarian that this title (based on perceived past usage) is not in question as to whether or not it should be retained as a current subscription.

2. Monograph - a nonserial bibliographic item, i.e., an item either complete in one part or complete, or intended to be completed, in a finite number of separate parts. (AACR2) (American Library Association, 1983 p. 48).

3. Non-essential - a periodical title, chosen by a subject specialist librarian, which will be a part of the study. It is the opinion of the subject specialist librarian that this title (based on perceived past usage) is in question as to whether or not it should be retained as a current subscription.

4. Periodical - a serial appearing or intended to appear indefinitely at regular or stated intervals, generally more frequently than annually, each issue of which is numbered or dated consecutively and normally contains

separate articles, stories, or other writings. (American Library Association, 1983, p. 166)

5. Serial - a publication in any medium issued in successive parts bearing numerical or chronological designations and intended to be continued indefinitely (American Library Association, 1983, p. 203).

6. Serials librarian - the person administratively responsible for the acquisition and processing of serials.

7. Subject specialist librarian - The person responsible for maintaining and administering one of eight separate subject areas of the library. Each area includes reference and non-reference books, and periodicals.

8. Subscription agent - an agent who, for a fee, handles the placing and renewing of periodical subscriptions for a library (American Library Association, 1983, p. 220).

Limitations of the Study

Because of the nature of the use study, specific need criteria, program mix, and budgetary factors, results of this study will only be relevant to Jacksonville State University Library.

Delimitations of the Study

Only current, paid, non-essential Jacksonville State University Library periodical subscriptions will be considered in the evaluation process. Newspaper subscriptions will not be included.

Government Publication periodicals will be considered for the use study only. Because JSU is a depository library, these publications are free. Several of these titles were selected by the reference librarians to be considered for the study. Data collected for these titles will be for in-house analysis and will not be presented to other faculty for consideration.

Sources of Data and Research Procedures

The primary sources of data for this study were JSU Library's periodicals shelflist, Ebsco's customized title information reports, use patterns of JSU Library's patrons, and JSU subject specialist librarians.

The JSU Houston Cole Library Policy Manual states the following concerning periodical selection:

> Selection: Because of the on-going costs and high inflationary characteristics associated with the purchase of serials subscriptions, selections will be

made with a high degree of discrimination.

Re-evaluation will be made on a continuing basis with special consideration given to tiles which exhibit extraordinary price increases.

The serials will be selected according to the following criteria:

1. The journal is indexed by services available in our library.
2. The title is in the English language (except on rare occasions).
3. Curriculum support and appropriateness of subject matter.
4. Accuracy of content.
5. Specific need.
6. Appropriateness of cost relative to need.
7. Usage.

The same criteria applied to journal selection can also be applied to journal deselection. Lynn S. Smith, Serials Department Head, University of California, Riverside, states "not only will a collection development policy prove rewarding in years of plenty as a guide to expenditure of funds, it will be a strong support in a deselection effort should one be needed" (Wood and Coppel, 1979). Citation analysis, which sometimes is an effective and useful method for determining use in some instances, will not be considered. "[Citation analysis]... can provide valuable information, but that data, while perhaps necessary,

certainly is not sufficient for making collection development decisions." (Buzzard & Whaley, 1985)

Accreditation requirements also will not be considered since this researcher could not locate any official statement concerning this criterion. According to Wood and Coppel (1979), accrediting agencies usually request information on total subscription costs and total bound volumes per discipline rather than specific titles .

This project consists of three phases. Phase one began with the writing of a proposal for the study as partial fulfillment for the requirements of a research seminar attended during the 1987 spring semester at Jacksonville State University. Phase two began in the summer of 1987, and continued until May, 1988. It is reported in this paper as a fulfillment of the requirements for six hours independent study credit. Phase three will be the continuation of the use study until summer, 1989, followed by the analysis of data and an execution of the methodology presented in this paper.

The purpose of this study is not a statistical analysis of total use patterns, but rather an assessment of the Library's subscriptions. Therefore, a core collection of essential titles will be identified by the subject specialists. These titles will automatically merit renewal without further analysis.

The library has a physical layout of eight separate subject areas with similar layouts housed in a twelve story

building as shown in Appendixes A and B. Each subject area has its own periodicals section (see Appendixes A & B). This presented the problem of having to enlist the cooperation of eight subject specialist librarians. Diplomacy was very important for keeping the project as consistent as possible among the separate areas.

The project began with an announcement (May 1987) in a library staff meeting. The reference librarians were told that a periodicals use study would be in effect when they returned for the following fall term, and that each one would be contacted on an individual basis and given more detailed information and an explanation of what would be expected from them. A follow up letter was sent out the next week to of all them. (see Appendix 3). The Library administration had given complete support to the project.

A preliminary study was put into effect on the 9th floor (medicine and science) during the Summer II term. The subject specialist librarian was asked to choose periodical titles housed on that floor which she felt would qualify for cancellation because of little or no usage. It was also explained that usage would not be the sole criteria for cancellation, and that each academic department would have input before cancellation.

A list of the selected titles with their call numbers was typed in shelflist order (see Figure 2). This list was used as a working copy of titles in the study and also as a data collection sheet.

Preliminary study conducted Summer II

TALLY

QA1/.A517	American Mathematical Society - Abstracts - UMI only
QA1/.A52	- Bulletin - UMI only
QA1/.A5216	- Notices - UMI only
QA1/.A5215	- Proceedings - UMI only
QA1/.A522	- Transactions - UMI only
	- Memoires - cancelled
QC1/.A56	American Physical Society - Bulletin - bound
QC1/.P42	- Physical Review A - bound & fiche
QC176/.A1P513	- Physical Review B - bound & fiche
QC176/.P45	- Physical Review C - bound & fiche
QC721/.P457	- Physical Review D -bound & fiche
QC1/.P43	- Physical Review letters - ?
QL785/.A725	Animal learning & behavior - bound
QH301/.A48	Annals of Applied biology -bound
RC321/.A93x	Australia & New Zealand journal of developmental disabilities - bound
RA790/.A1A5	American journal of orthopsychiatry - film & bound - UMI only
QK1/.C2	Canadian journal of botany - bound & film - UMI only
QC1/.N332	Canadian journal of Physics - bound & film - UMI only
QD1/.C285	Canadian journal of Chemistry - bound & film - UMI only
QD1/.C48	Chemistry Society (London) - Chemical Communications
QD1/.C58	- Dalton trans.
QD1/.C581 & .C582	- Faraday I & II
QD1/.C59 & .C6	- Perkins I & II
QL671/.C7	Condor - bound
QH301/.F37	Federation proceedings - bound
QL640/.H4	Herpetologica - bound & film
QP1/.H84	Human development - bound
QC1/.J83	Journal of applied physics - bound & film
QC350/.J68 & .J7	Journal of the Optical Society A & B -bound & fiche
QE701/.J6	Journal of Paleontology - bound
QL757/.J68	Journal of parasitology - bound
QE701/.P17	Paleobiology - unbound
QC175/.P5	Physics of fluids - bound & fiche
QC1/.R4	Review of Modern physics - bound
QE993/.R4	Review of palaebotany & palynology - film & bound

Figure 2. Data collection sheet - preliminary study.

The spines of the bound periodical volumes were marked with colored peel-off/stick-on dots. For extremely long runs of titles only 15 years backfiles were marked. Microfilm boxes were also marked with the dots, and microfiche envelopes were marked with a red "x".

Signs were posted among the shelves telling users that a use study was being conducted and requesting that they not reshelve used materials, but place them on the designated book trucks (see Appendixes D & E). A student worker added color to the signs to make them stand out better.

Before the periodicals were reshelved, a tally mark was made by that particular title on the data sheet. This was done either by the librarian or the student assistant.

The unbound and current issues are kept on shelves in an area not readily accessible to the patron. A tally sheet with the title and call number was taped next to each periodical in the study, requesting that the sheet be marked if an issue was used (see Appendix F). This was to be marked by the person in charge of the area when he/she removed the issue from the shelf. Some of the reference areas have sign-out sheets for users to write down their name, date, and periodical issue used. This could be used as a check for accuracy on the tally sheets.

During this time contact was made with the other librarians on an individual basis for a detailed explanation of the study. They were given their respective shelflists

and asked to indicate with a clip which non-essential titles they chose for the study. It was imperative that each librarian be assured that cancellations would not be made in an indiscriminate fashion. Their full cooperation was extremely important for consistency among the different areas.

After each shelflist was returned, a list of chosen titles for that floor was typed. There were varying percentages of titles chosen per floor (see Table 1).

Table 1

Percentage of non-essential periodical titles chosen per subject area to total number of periodical titles per subject area

FLOOR/SUBJECT AREA BY LC CLASS #	TOTAL # TITLES PER FLOOR	TOTAL # TITLES CHOSEN / FLOOR	PERCENTAGE CHOSEN
2nd/A,B,C,Z	152	21	13.8%
3rd/D,E,F,G (except GV)	173	9	5.2%
4th/H,J	295	59	20.0%
5th/GV,L	178	30	16.8%
6th/P-PN,M,N	71	14	19.7%
7th/PQ-PZ	50	7	12.7%
9th/Q,R	219	35	15.4%
10th/S,T,U,V,K	211	23	10.9%
TOTAL	1362	198	14.5%

At the end of the Summer II semester, the data from the preliminary study was collected. The process and

results were discussed with the librarian. (see figure 2) Three of the 35 chosen titles were used in a four week period.

No major problems were encountered. One minor problem was that the dots used to mark the spines of the volumes began to curl in some instances. This problem was solved by replacing the dots with colored tape which has a firmer stick.

Before the Fall 1987 term began, each area was marked and signed in a manner similar to the one in the preliminary study. It was strongly suggested to each librarian that he/she inform the student assistants fully of the study and exactly what was expected of them. Because the turnover of student assistants is high and because it was later discovered that the floor librarians were not always reliable in informing the workers of the procedure, a typed list of instructions was posted on each floor (see Appendix G).

In addition to the non-essential titles chosen by the subject specialist, it was also requested that they choose two moderately used titles to be used as control titles. This assures the researcher that the study will measure what it is meant to measure.

Once the study was put into effect a periodic check with each librarian was made in order to discuss any problems and to make sure correct procedures were being

followed. By the end of the Fall Semester the study was proceeding well.

At the beginning of the Spring 1988 semester, all the data from the previous semester was collected and a new data sheet was put on each floor. After analyzing the data, two major problems became evident.

Two of the floors obviously filled in the data at the last minute. All the tally marks were written in the same pen or pencil and were out of proportion with the other data sheets. Both of these came from librarians who had initially shown resistance to the study. The second problem was the loss of a data sheet from one floor. It had not been secured in a notebook or by tape, so probably was used as scratch paper by a patron.

Because of these problems and the overall difficulty in control, it was decided to continue the study for one more year to try to obtain more accurate figures. One of the librarians who did not cooperate indicated that he would be more conscientious in the future.

For the purpose of this paper, data from the 4th floor (social sciences and political science) will be discussed (see Figure 3). Of the 58 titles from this floor chosen for the study, 18 were used (see Table 2).

4th floor

H1/.A472	American behavioral scientist - |
H1/.A48	American journal of economics and sociology not bound
H1/.C73	Comparative studies in society and history
H1/.S55	Internatioanl social science review
H31/.S82	Studies in comparative international development
H62/.J65	Journal of regional science
H62/.S477	Simulation & games
HA1/.R35	Review of economics and statistics 1985 - 1986 ||
HB1/.A523	American economist
HB1/.C314	Review of social economy 1975-85
HB1/.E3	Economic journal - |||
HB1/.H55	History of political economy
HB1/.I65	International economic review
HB1/.J6	Journal of economic literature
HB1/.J645	Journal of economic theory
HB1/.J65	Land economics
HB1/.J7	Journal of political economy ——7. 1985 |
HB1/.Q3	Quarterly journal of economics - |
HB1/.R4	Review of economic studies - |
HB31/.O77	Oxford economic papers 1972 - 1985
HB881/.A1D53	Demography - |
HC10/.C453	Economic development and cultural change
HB881/.A1P67	Population studies
HC10/.E85	Explorations in economic history
HC10/.J58	Journal of development studies - |
HC10/.Q33	Quarterly review of economics and business
HD1/.J6	Journal of industrial econo;mics - |||
HD101/.A425	Agricultural economics research - |
HD4811/.I65	Internatioan labour review
~~HD9564/.M66~~	~~Monthly energy review~~ GIFT
~~HF1/.J65~~	~~Journal of international economics~~ Cancelled
HF5001/.R71	Rotarian
~~HG1501/.I5~~	~~Independent banker~~ GIFT
HG3810/.I5	International Monetary Fund - staff papers |
HG8011/.J64	Journal of risk and insurance - |

Figure 3. Data collection sheet from 4th floor - Fall, 1987.

HM1/.B75	*British journal of sociology* — |
HN1/.R45	*Papers of the Regional Science Assn*
HQ1101/.F46	*Feminist studies*
HQ1101/.S5	*Signs - journal of women in culture and society* — |
HQ1206/.P76	*Psychology of women quarterly* — ||
HT401/.R8	*Rural sociology*
HV2469/.E5T42	*Teaching English to deaf and second-language studnets*
HV6001/.E9	*Criminology and penology abstracts* — |||
HV7551/.L38	*Law enforcement news*
~~*HV8073/.C692*~~	~~*Crime laboratory digest - GPO*~~
HX1/.P75	*Problems of Communism*
HX1/.S74	*Studies in comparative communism*
~~*HX8/.P723*~~	~~*World Marxism review*~~ FREE
JA1/.W4	*Western political quarterly*
JA3/.J65	*Journal of comparative administration* — |||
JA26/.I57	*Interpretation*
JA36/.I5	*International political science abstracts*
JC599/.U45A25	*New perspectives - GPO* — |
~~*JK1/.U45a*~~	~~*Congressional research service review - GPO*~~
JX1/.C6	*Journal of international affairs*
JX1/.I53	*Internatioanl affairs*
~~*JX1/.U542*~~	~~*State - GPO*~~
JX1901/.I55	*International organization*
JX1901/.J6	*Journal of conflict resolution*

Figure 3. cont.

Table 2

Number of titles used and frequency of use from the Fall 1987 data sheets. (H and J classification)

	NUMBER OF TITLES	FREQUENCY OF USE
	12	1
	2	2
	4	3
TOTAL	18	28

Since none of the titles that were used are extremely expensive, none were included in the list for possible cancellation. All the titles that were not used were grouped by related disciplines and listed by call number, title, indexing, and historical price analysis (see Tables 3-6). These lists will be sent to each department head along with a letter of explanation and a copy of the library's policy on criteria for serials selection (see Appendix H).

Positive responses and input from faculty and department heads will be welcomed. Negative responses will be met with compromise and further explanation of our dilemma. Substitute titles will be considered.

Some faculty may not be aware of the non-use of the journals in their particular field. In these instances, the threat of cancellation may entice them to increase library assignments and personal use of the library.

H - Social Sciences (General)

CALL #	PERIODICAL TITLE	INDICES	PRICE 1983	PRICE 1984	PRICE 1985	PRICE 1986	PRICE 1987	PERCENT INCREASE
H1/.A48	American Journal of Economics and Sociology	SO,PU,SS,SA AS,BR,HA,LL,WS	10.00	10.00	10.00	15.00	15.00	50.0%
H1/.C73	Comparative Studies in Society and History	HI,SS,SA,LL	49.50	55.00	57.00	58.00	60.00	21.2%
H1/.S55	International Social Science Review	HA	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	00.0%
H31/.S82	Studies in Comparative International Development	SA,SS,HA,LL	24.00	24.00	30.00	40.00	40.00	66.6%
H62/.J65	Journal of Regional Science	SS,SO	40.00	45.00	48.00	51.00	55.00	37.5%
H62/.S477	Simulation and Games	PS,SS,SO,SA CJ,LL	52.00	56.00	60.00	63.00	70.00	34.6%

Index abbreviations:
AS - Social Work Research & Abstracts
BR - Book Review Index
CJ - Current Index to Journals in Education
HA - Historical Abstracts
LL - Language and Language Behavior Abstracts
PS - Psychological Abstracts
SA - Sociological Abstracts
SO - Social Science Index
SS - Social Science Citation Index
PU - Public Affairs Information Bulletin

Table 3

Indexing and historical price analysis of periodical titles - LC classification H.

HA - Statistics
HB - Economic Theory
HC - Economic History and Conditions
HD - Land Economics. Agricultural Economics. Industry

CALL #	PERIODICAL TITLE	INDICES	PRICE 1983	PRICE 1984	PRICE 1985	PRICE 1986	PRICE 1987	PERCENT INCREASE
HA1/.R35	Review of Economics and Statistics	BP,MX,MR,PU, SS,SO,HA,WS	68.00	73.46	77.89	103.53	110.00	61.7%
HB1/.A53	American Economist	BP	6.00	6.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	100.0%
HB1/.C314	Review of Social economy	PU,SS,HA	25.00	30.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	40.0%
HB1/.H55	History of Poltical Economy	SS,SO,YW	32.00	32.00	38.00	38.00	47.00	46.8%
HB1/.I65	International Economic Review	SO,SS	60.00	66.00	66.00	66.00	66.00	10.%
HB1/.J645	Journal of Economic Theory	SS,SO	210.00	237.00	258.00	279.00	306.00	45.7%
HB1/.J65	Land Economics	BP,PU,SS,HA,SO,BI	35.00	36.00	37.00	38.00	39.00	11.4%
HB31/.O77	Oxford Economic Papers	PU,SS,SO,HA	59.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	75.00	27.1%
HB881/.A1P67	Population Studies	SS,PU,SA,HA,LL,WS	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	00.0%
HC10/.C453	Economic development and Cultural Change	BP,PU,SS,SA, SO,HA,LL	50.00	55.00	55.00	55.00	55.00	10.0%
HC10/.E85	Exploration in Economic History	SS,SA,HA,SO,LL	66.00	72.00	79.00	87.00	94.00	42.4%
HC10/.Q33	Quarterly Review of Economics and Business	BP,SS,PU,HA, HL,BI	25.00	25.00	30.00	30.00	32.00	7.0%
HD4811/.I65	International Labour Review	BP,PU,SS,BR WS,CJ	25.00	28.50	28.50	31.30	34.20	34.1%

Index abbreviations:
BP - Business Periodicals Index
CJ - Current Index to Journals In Education
BI -Bibliographic Index
BR - Book Review Index
HA - Historical Abstracts
LL - Language & Language Behavior Abstracts
MX - Magazine Index
PU - Public Affairs Info. Service Bulletin
SA - Sociological Abstracts
SO - Social Sciences In dex
SS - Social Sciences Citation Index
WS - Women's Studies Abstracts
YW - Year's Work in English Studies

HN - Social History / Problems / Reform
HQ - Social Groups
HT - Communities. Classes. Races.
HV - Social Pathology. Social & Public Welfare. Criminology
HX - Socialism. Communism. Anarchism

CALL #	PERIODICAL TITLE	INDICES	PRICE 1983	PRICE 1984	PRICE 1985	PRICE 1986	PRICE 1987	PERCENT INCREASE
HN1/.R45	Papers of the Regional Science Association					32.00	37.00	
HQ1101/.F46	Feminist Studies	SA,HA,WS,ML,SO PS,LL,SS,YW	30.00	36.00	36.00	39.00	42.00	40.0%
HT401/.R8	Rural Sociology	WS,PU,SS,SO,SA,HA,CJ	48.00	48.00	48.00	48.00	48.00	00.0%
HV2469/.E5T42	Teaching English to Deaf and Second-Language Students					15.00	15.00	
HV7551/.L38	Law Engorcement News		14.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	28.5%
HX1/.S74	Studies in Comparative Communism	SS,SO,PU	29.00	32.00	35.00	40.00	40.00	66.6%

Index abbreviations: *HA - Historical Abstracts*
LL - Language & language Behavior Abstracts
CJ - Current Index to Journals in Education
ML - MLA Internat'l Bibliography of Books & Articles
PS - Psychological Abstracts
PU - Public Affairs Info.Service Bulletin
SA - Sociological ABstracts
SO - Social Sciences Index
SS - Social Sciencs Citation INdex
WS - Women's Studies Abstracts
YW - Year's Work in English Studies

Table 5

Indexing and historical price analysis of periodical titles - LC classification HN-HX.

JA - Political Science (General)
JX - International Law. International Relations

CALL #	PERIODICAL TITLE	INDICES	PRICE 1983	PRICE 1984	PRICE 1985	PRICE 1986	PRICE 1987	PERCENT INCREASE
JA1/.W4	Western Political Quarterly	SS,SO,SA, HA,LL,BR	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	00.0%
JA26/.I57	Interpretation		16.00	16.00	16.00	18.00	18.00	12.5%
JA36/.I5	International Political Science Abstracts					135.00	181.17	
JX1/.I53	Journal of International Affairs	SS,SO,SA,PU,HA	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	00.0%
JX1/.I53	International Affairs	PU,SS,SO,SA,HA,LL	37.00	40.00	44.00	41.00	45.00	21.6%
JX1901/.I55	International Organization	SA,SS,SO,PU,HA,LL	36.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	42.00	16.6%
JX1901/.J6	Journal of Conflict Resolution	PS,SS,SO,SA, PU,HA,LL	60.00	65.00	70.00	74.00	90.00	50.0%

Index abbreviations: *HA - Historical Abstracts*
LL - Language & language Behavior Abstracts
PU - Public Affairs Info. Service Bulletin
SS - Social Science Citation Index
SO - Social Sciences Index
SA - Sociological Abstracts
BR - Book Reveiw Index

Table 6

Indexing and historical price analysis of periodical titles - LC classification JA and JX.

No response from faculty in individual disciplines will be followed by an additional plea for input from them. If there is still no response, a consultation with the subject specialist librarian will be made before any cancellations are made (see Figure 4).

Conclusion

This project has been very enlightening, but was not without its problems. The most difficult aspect of it has been the lack of control in the use study because of the physical separation of the subject areas, each controlled by individual subject specialist librarians. Different personalities elicit different levels of cooperation. Confidence in the accuracy of data was varied.

Allowing the use study to continue for another year should result in more accurate data. A two year period of non-use could possibly be more impressive to faculty with regard to the title's lack of usefulness to our collection. Dealing with responses from faculty at the end of the study should prove challenging.

In spite of the difficulties and feelings of inadequacies the project will be helpful. A collection which is allowed to stagnate is a disservice to its users. Flawed as this assessment has been, it should prove very helpful in making JSU's Library's periodicals collection much more viable and dynamic.

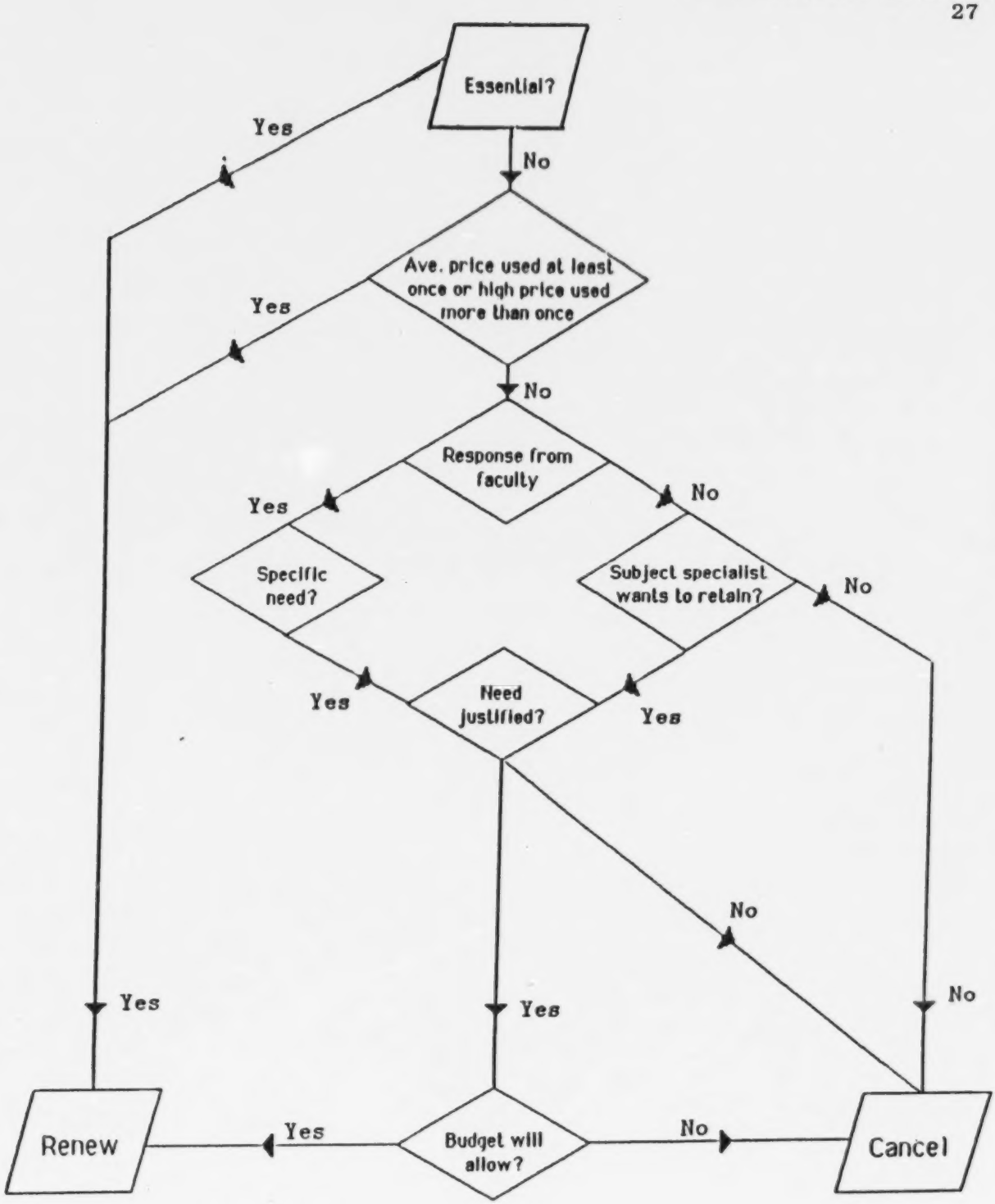


Figure 4. Flowchart of Periodical Assessment Procedure.

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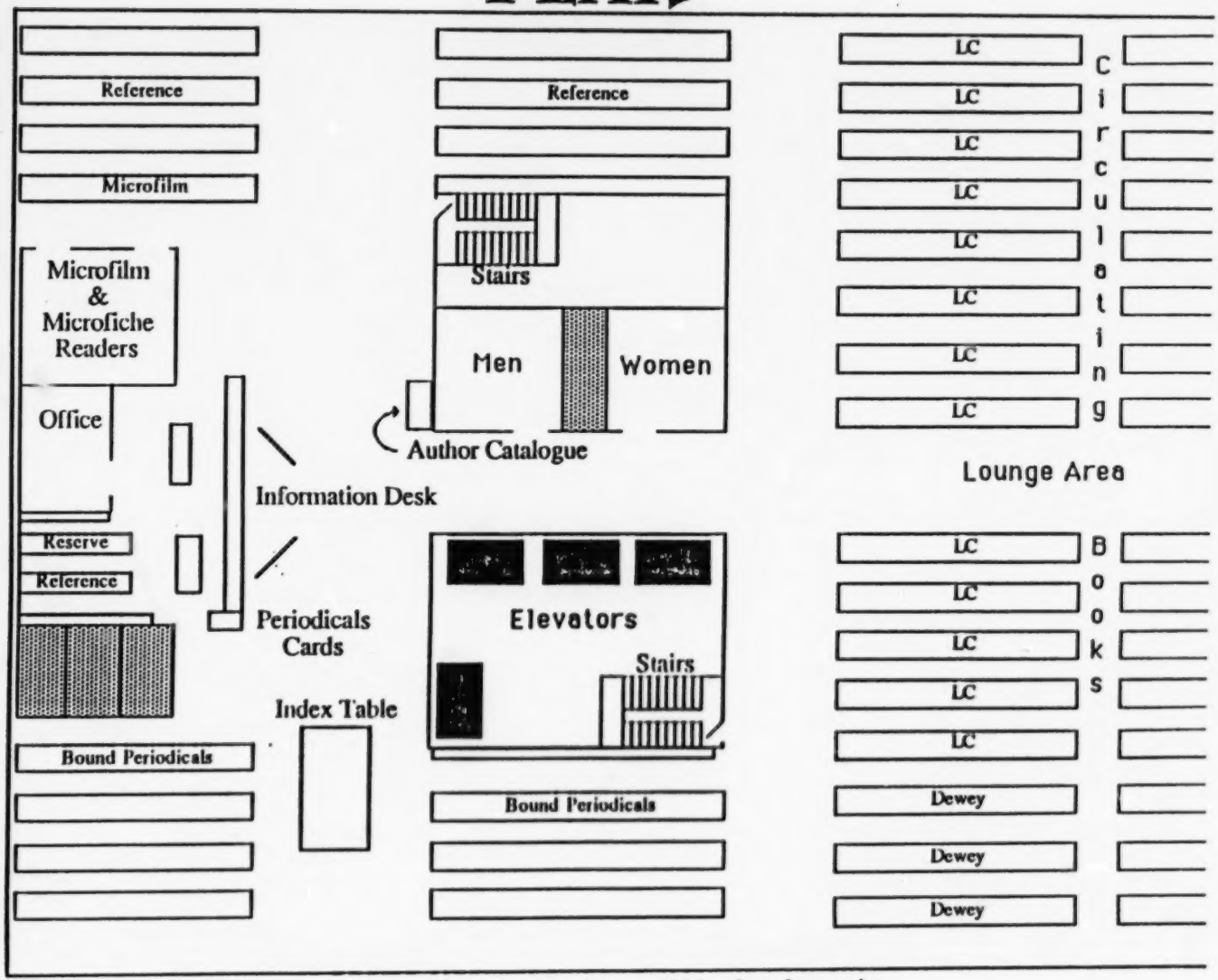
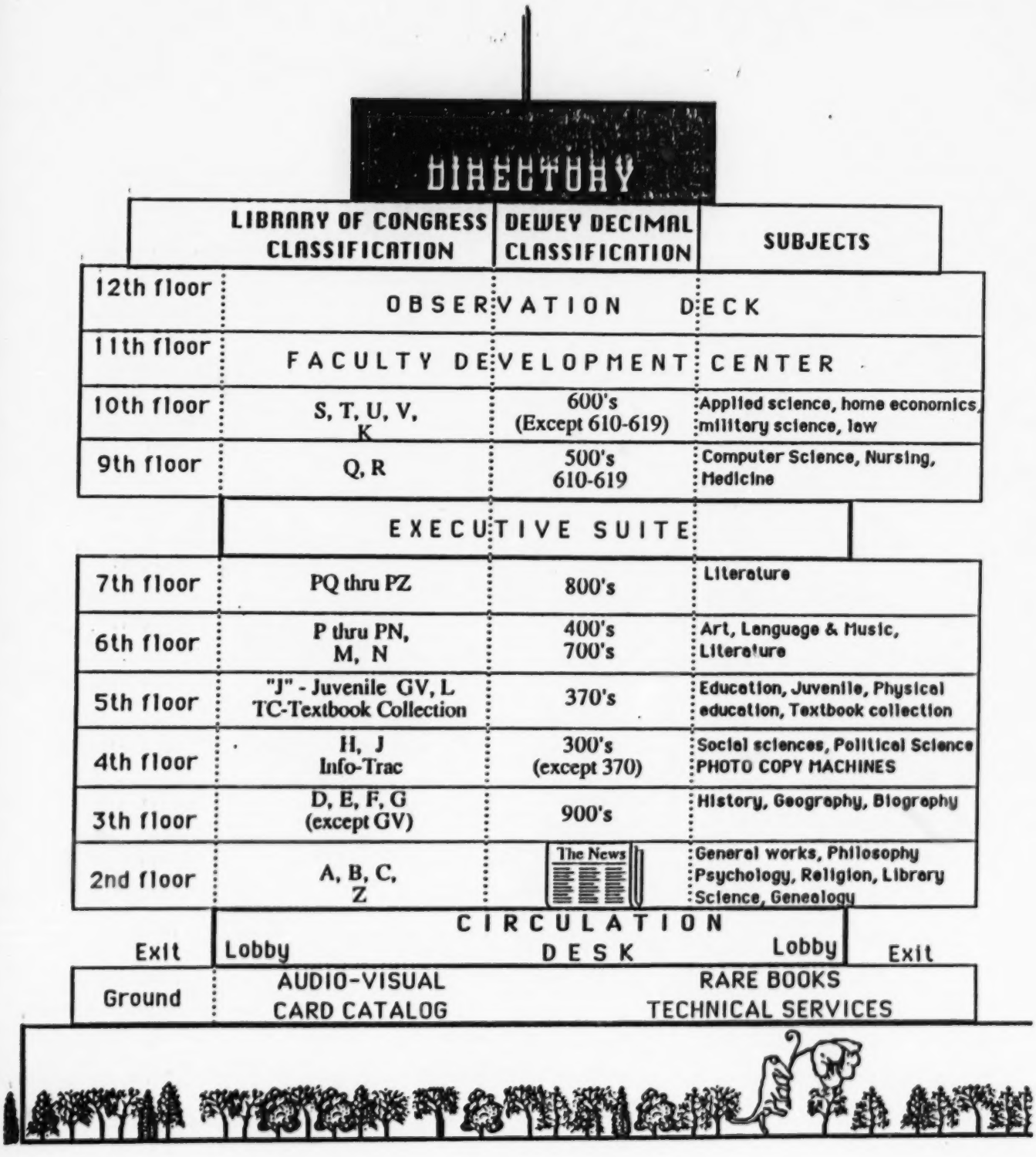
FLOOR PLAN



•Some floors may have differing layouts

Appendix B


DIRECTORY
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CLASSIFICATION
DEWEY DECIMAL CLASSIFICATION
SUBJECTS
12th floor
OBSERVATION DECK
11th floor
FACULTY DEVELOPMENT CENTER
10th floor
S, T, U, V, K
600's (Except 610-619)
Applied science, home economics, military science, law
9th floor
Q, R
500's 610-619
Computer Science, Nursing, Medicine
EXECUTIVE SUITE
7th floor
PQ thru PZ
800's
Literature
6th floor
P thru PN, M, N
400's 700's
Art, Language & Music, Literature
5th floor
"J" - Juvenile GV, L TC-Textbook Collection
370's
Education, Juvenile, Physical education, Textbook collection
4th floor
H, J Info-Trac
300's (except 370)
Social sciences, Political Science PHOTO COPY MACHINES
3th floor
D, E, F, G (except GV)
900's
History, Geography, Biography
2nd floor
A, B, C, Z
The News
General works, Philosophy Psychology, Religion, Library Science, Geneology
CIRCULATION DESK
Exit
Lobby
Lobby
Exit
Ground
AUDIO-VISUAL
CARD CATALOG
RARE BOOKS
TECHNICAL SERVICES

Appendix C

JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY
JACKSONVILLE, ALABAMA 36265

HOUSTON COLE LIBRARY TELEPHONE (205) 231-5255

MEMO

June 3, 1987

TO: Reference Librarians

FROM: Mary Bevis

RE: Periodicals Use Study

In reference to the brief announcement made at the Friday morning staff meeting, beginning in September we will be conducting a use study of periodicals. The purpose of this study is to identify little or non-used titles to be considered for deselection.

Only titles chosen by the reference librarians will be subject to the study. I will be meeting with you on an individual basis to explain criteria for selection.

A preliminary plan for control is as follows:

Current issues (unbound) will have a date due slip stapled to the front cover with instructions to date the item if it is used.

Bound periodicals and microforms will be marked on the spine with a stick-on dot. Signs will be posted on the shelves requesting that used periodicals not be reshelved, but placed on a designated book truck. You will be responsible for checking the periodicals before re-shelving. If there are any with dots, it should be noted on the list of titles that I will provide.

I have tried to devise a plan that will be as little trouble for you as possible. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to offer them.

Accuracy will be difficult to control due to open shelves and multiple access points. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. Results of our joint effort will eventually be realized in a more cost efficient and useful periodicals collection.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

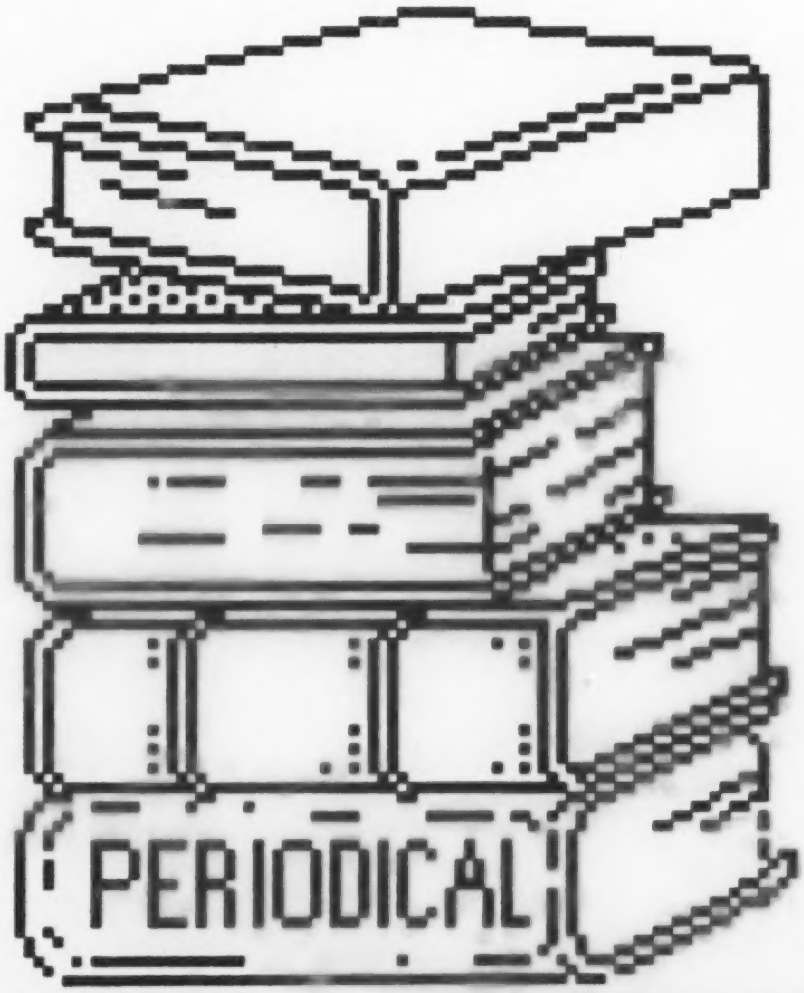
Please do not reshelve microforms.

Place in designated box on counter.

The library is conducting a use study of these items.

Please leave bound periodicals here.

Thanks



If any of these unbound issues are used, please indicate on this sheet.

Appendix G

ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS ASSISTANTS!!!!

The library is conducting a use study of it periodicals (magazines and journals). Please note the following special instructions:

1. Before a bound volume is reshelved, check for colored tape on the spine. If you find a volume marked with tape, put a check mark next its name on the tally sheet for this floor. (Ask the librarian where it is located)

2. Before reshelving microforms, follow the same instructions as in number one. Microfiche envelopes will be marked with a red "X".

3. Some of the current issues behind the desk have a tally sheet next to them with the name and call# on it. If any of these issues are used, indicate on the tally sheet with a check mark or date.

If you have any questions, ask the librarian. This is important to the library. Please help us out!!!

Appendix H

MEMO

DATE: April 9, 1988

TO: Dr. Adrian Aveni, Department Head - Sociology

FROM: Mary Bevis, Serials Librarian

RE: Periodical subscriptions

During the past two years the Library has been in the process of assessing its current periodical subscriptions. The purpose of this assessment is to identify titles for cancellation in order that we may make better use of our limited funds, thus making our collection much more viable and dynamic.

U.S. periodical prices have increased 258% since 1978. Along with subscription prices, we must continue to pay higher costs for binding and microfilm. The library has been very limited in honoring new title requests because of these factors. Cancellations of titles which are no longer beneficial to our users will allow us to be more liberal in purchasing new subscriptions.

The assessment has been partly in the form of a use study of periodical titles for which there has been in the past, according to observations of the subject specialist librarian, not much of a demand. Enclosed is a list of titles in your subject area which have not received any use in the past two years, or which are extremely expensive and have received very limited use. Each title is listed by call number, indexing, and an historical price analysis from the past five years.

Please look over this list and the policy statement for periodical selection and share it with your department. We welcome any comments from you and your faculty as to special need, curriculum support, or possible future need.

The library will certainly consider replacement subscriptions in your subject area. Also, any title which is canceled can easily be obtained through interlibrary loan if there is a request for it.

We appreciate your input and continued support of the library. The end result of this process should prove very beneficial to us all.